## **NEWS RELEASE**



## From JOHN R. NOGUEZ

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Assessor John Noguez Supports Legislative Efforts to Regulate Tax Agents

**Los Angeles, CA** – Los Angeles County Assessor John R. Noguez announces his support for Assemblyman Mike Gatto's effort to regulate tax agents in the State of California. Assemblyman Gatto's AB 404 would require tax agents to register as lobbyists in any county with a lobbyist registry. Last month, Assessor Noguez proposed creating a Tax Agent Registry for the County of Los Angeles as part of his administration's Transparency and Accountability Initiatives.

Assessor Noguez stated, "AB 404 is long overdue and a much needed reform. I've offered my office's technical expertise and assistance to help move this important piece of legislation forward."

Tax agents often represent property owners before county assessors and assessment appeals boards throughout the state. In recent years, especially due to the decline in the real estate market, the industry has grown quickly and with little oversight. As a result concerns about transparency and accountability have arisen about the relationship between the assessor's office, which estimates property values, tax agents, who represent property owners, and the Assessment Appeals Board, which arbitrates disputes between the Assessor's office and property owners.

Assessor Noguez added, "My proposed policy addresses many of the transparency and accountability concerns raised by taxpayers. If adopted, my proposal will require tax agents to register with the county and report their activities in a way that is consistent with AB 404."

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John R. Noguez has over 27 years of appraiser experience in the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office and was elected Assessor in November 2010 with nearly one million votes. The constitutional duty of the Assessor is to fairly and accurately appraise property. The Office of the Assessor maintains a property roll of 2.4 million homes and businesses that has a gross total appraised valuation of over \$1.1 trillion dollars in 2011.